



United States Air Force

# ONLINE news

## Inside

- CMSAF view on Redux 2
- AF proposes revised relations with CAP 3
- Keesler sweeps for Y2K 3
- CE powers Aviano 3

Vol. 1, No. 9

The official USAF newspaper (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>)

May 12, 1999

## Air Force plans Stop-Loss

By Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Stanley  
*Air Force Print News*

**WASHINGTON** — After weighing several options, the Air Force will implement Stop-Loss, halting separations and retirements for people in critical career fields who planned to leave the service.

Stop-Loss will follow President Clinton's decision in late April to call up Reserve forces to support the NATO mission in Kosovo. The formal announcement, including a list of critical skills affected and the effective date, will be made within a week, according to personnel officials.

Under Title 10 of the U.S. Code, Stop-Loss may be used to temporarily suspend voluntary separations and retirements. This includes discharges, resignations and Reserve Component transfers to a lesser readiness category. This can also affect promotions of members of the armed forces while a presidential call-up or mobilization is in effect. In this instance, Stop-Loss will last indefinitely, pending resolution of the situation in Kosovo.

However, the Air Force does not intend  
**continued on Page 4**



*U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Steven A. Taylor*

*Staff Sgt. David Helton, Senior Airman Erik McIntyre and Senior Airman Craig Yeoman load an AIM-9 missile onto an F16 at Aviano Air Base, Italy. The airmen are deployed to the 31st Air Expeditionary Wing at Aviano, supporting NATO Operation Allied Force.*

## Senior leaders meet for summit

### ■ AF may restructure aviator continuation pay

**WASHINGTON** — If key provisions of a Senate bill become law, the Air Force could restructure the aviator continuation pay program.

Faced with the largest pilot shortage in history, Acting Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters and Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan convened a summit of commanders from the major commands in April at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Their charge was to focus on the near-term management of the pilot force. The senior leaders reviewed pilot requirements,

training and absorption, manning of headquarters staffs and how to best implement features of the Soldier's, Sailor's, Airmen's and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999.

If enacted, the act provides certain features the Air Force could capitalize on, according to the deputy chief of staff for personnel. Specifically, the act would grant discretionary authority to the services to pay aviator bonuses beyond the current limit of 14 years of commissioned service.

The act would also repeal the restriction on dual compensation that limits the amount of pay a retired military member could earn if subsequently employed

**continued on Page 4**

## NEWSBYTES

### Film shows academies

**WASHINGTON** — A three-hour documentary, "Inside America's Military Academies," airs May 16 from 8-11 p.m., May 17 from midnight to 3 a.m. and May 23 from 5-8 p.m. EDT on the Discovery Channel. The show will highlight the U.S. Military Academy, Naval Academy, Air Force Academy and Coast Guard Academy.

### Beware of Y2K scams

**WASHINGTON** — Scam artists are preying on people fearful of year 2000 computer problems. Among the schemes:

- Con men telling people to withdraw money from banks to invest with the cons;
- Unsolicited e-mail asking people to invest in miracle Y2K fixes; and
- Credit card insurance or Y2K-compliant strips for credit cards are offered to victims via phone solicitation; caller asks for credit card number.

Anyone receiving such solicitations should contact the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, local law-enforcement agency or National Fraud Information Center at (800) 876-7060.

### Memorial wins court battle

**ARLINGTON, Va.** — The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit ruled May 10 in favor of the Air Force Memorial Foundation. This gives the green light to complete a memorial honoring Air Force men and women.

This was the second time in a year that a federal court has dismissed a suit aimed at stopping construction of the memorial.

### Promotion lists release

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** — Technical (99E6) and master sergeant (99E7) promotion lists are due for release May 27.



## Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week.

Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published.

Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

## Greener grass?

... (In) response to the commentary, "Is the grass always greener?" by Senior Airman Kris P. Travers (ONLINE NEWS, April 28, 1999) ... What were you planning on doing? ... How did you think that class was going to be paid for? ... As a civilian employer, I have only one thought. It's called making a profit. That's what businesses are there for — not to make buddy-buddy with employees ... Yes, the grass is greener on this side, but you should have known the civilian "lawn" was torn and tattered before setting up your lawn chair.

**David M. Miller**  
*Offutt AFB, Neb.*

## Who takes his polls?

In an Air Force Times interview, the Air Combat Command assistant director of operations said that "morale is high among ACC troops." I'm just trying to figure out which troops he is talking

about. ... we have been extended (in Southwest Asia) twice. Initially sent over for 45-day rotation then extended for 30 days, then that extended for an additional 30 days to indefinite. ... ACC always seems to be able to get us somewhere but never able to get us home. ... If we are going to be here for 90 or 120 days, then tell us that. It not only prepares us but our families as well. ...

**Staff Sgt. Richard Brewer**  
*Mountain Home AFB, Idaho*

## Good discipline brings pride

Over the past couple of issues, I have read all of the commentaries concerning the proper wear of the uniform and why it is important. ... When you have good discipline, pride usually results, which is something we should all have. We are part of the greatest and most respected Air Force in the world. If you are not proud of that, then you need to find another line of work. ...

**Randall Ashmore**  
*Commander, 469th Contingency Hospital*

# An insider's perspective on repealing Redux

## Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric W. Benken

Over the past several months, I have read and listened with interest to the debate regarding the current military retirement system known as Redux. At issue is the repeal of Redux, the 1986 decision that reduced the lifetime value of the 20-year retirement by 25 percent. Redux is the ugly chicken hatched in 1986, now come to roost in 1999.

Its supporters say that repealing Redux is not the "silver bullet" to salvage sagging retention in our military. I agree that Redux is not the only answer. There are many factors affecting retention — the high operations tempo we have sustained for nearly 10 years, supporting ever-increasing numbers of missions with fewer and fewer people spread thinly around the world; underfunding of the defense budget for too many years creating equipment shortages and impacting training; the strong economy that lures our tremendously talented people into the private sector with promises of better pay, compensation and family stability.

Our retention concerns are related to all of these things. But pay and compensation

are certainly factors that help us retain our force, and we need to address this important area correctly. Continuing analysis and looking for ways to find a cheaper alternative to repealing Redux are wrong.

One supporter has said the "rush to scrap Redux is based on a combination of anecdotal reports, survey data and personal judgments." That combination is exactly what convinces me that repealing Redux is the right thing to do! Sometimes charts, graphs and slide rules must give way to common sense. This is about repairing the broken faith with our troops that took place more than a decade ago.

As the most senior enlisted person in the Air Force, representing 80 percent of our people, I've traveled to more than 67 major installations and the vast majority of our bare base operations throughout the world over the last two years. I've been listening to our members tell me the retirement system must be restored — that it is simply unfair to have our people serving side by side under different retirement systems. Our formal surveys indicate the same thing. Call it "anecdotal" and "personal judgment," but the message is certainly loud and clear. It is the same message delivered by my service counterparts and the Joint Chiefs during congressional testimony.

I just returned from Albania where our

forces have been working for more than 40 consecutive days, 12 to 16 hours per day, up to their ankles in mud caused by torrential downpours. At night they sleep in crowded tents and take cold communal showers. The environment is chaotic, dangerous and austere.

While most Americans sleep soundly at night, our troops selflessly serve in harm's way. Our pilots continue to risk their lives around the clock over the skies of Yugoslavia; our special forces stand poised to give their lives so others may live. Security forces people vigilantly guard perimeters and listen to gunfire in the distance.

And don't forget, while the war goes on in the Balkans, we continue to enforce treacherous no-fly zones over Iraq. Our forces stare into the face of terrorism every day, undaunted by several tragic bombing attacks in the recent past.

We "can't go cheap" on defense. Other national interests, like Social Security and Medicare, wouldn't exist if not for the great men and women in the armed services who protect our freedom and global interests. America is getting a real bargain; our extremely technically proficient and professional armed forces are worth far more than we could ever pay them. This is about fairness and what is right for our people.



## Keesler sweeps for Y2K bugs

By Susan Griggs

81st Training Wing Public Affairs

**KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** –

For two days, Keesler is living in the future, its clocks pushed ahead to Dec. 31. It's all part of a basewide sweep for pesky year 2000 computer bugs that might still spring up when Jan. 1 arrives.

This is the Air Force's only "live base" Y2K test devoted primarily to basewide infrastructure compliance. Air Force Communications Agency officials from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., turned the clocks forward on Keesler computer systems yesterday to see how they work as the first "00" date rolls over.

Lessons learned from the Keesler sweep will be applied to other Air Force bases so that the entire service is prepared for the changeover.

During the tests, operators are creating, storing, transmitting, sorting and printing information on a variety of systems used throughout the Air Force. Units are also using their continuity of operations plans to make sure they can continue their missions if a system fails.

"I think a lot of people at Keesler believed that the test is just a system administrator's function that won't affect them," said Lt. Col. Jim Boynton, Keesler test coordinator. "I assure you that everyone at Keesler is deeply involved in this test."

The Keesler tests are checking four critical dates that could cause computer systems to fail: Sept. 9, 1999; Oct. 1, 1999; Jan. 1, 2000; and Feb. 29, 2000. More than 30 critical systems are being tested, including automated information systems critical to logistics, security forces, finance, medical, personnel, civil engineering, contracting, training and services.

Non-automated systems include all base data and voice networks, the base network control center, the base's information protection and network management systems, 911 emergency system, telephone switches, video teleconferencing, pager systems, traffic lights, elevators, fire and security alarms, heating and air conditioning systems and more.

Computer system users at Keesler came to work May 11 expecting to see changes. They are following guidelines that will ensure accurate tracking as the test progresses. Users were told to continue sending messages throughout the test and to closely follow instructions on any "pop-up banners" received from the network control center. They are reporting any problems to their systems administrators to track test results.

"The base-wide test, nicknamed Dragon 2000, is a tremendous opportunity for Team Keesler to make a huge impact on the Air Force," Colonel Boynton said.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## Civil Engineers power Aviano

By Senior Airman Angela Furry

31st Air Expeditionary Wing

**AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy** – The largest Air Force combat wing ever assembled will soon be plugged in to all the power it needs with the help of deployed civil engineers.

For the last two weeks, the 14 engineers have been installing high-voltage lines for three sub stations to provide electrical power to the Caserma Barbarisi tent city and several other projects.

The entire operation is expected to take less than 60 days, according to an engineer with the 823rd REDHORSE Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla. Short for rapid engineer deployable heavy operational repair squadron engineer, REDHORSE workers routinely take on such projects.

These power lines will supply commercial power to the dining tent and tent city residents, according to Tech. Sgt. Tony Shepard, 823rd lead craftsman.

"Once tent city is wired into commercial power, the area will no longer have need for continuous generator power," said Staff Sgt. Greg Riley, project manager for the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## AF proposes revised relations with CAP

**WASHINGTON** – The Air Force is working with Congress to clarify the relationship between the service and its civilian auxiliary, the Civil Air Patrol Corporation. This effort follows months of negotiations between the Air Force and CAP that had limited success.

The move stems from a 1996 audit that concluded the Air Force needed to exert greater authority over CAP to comply with financial management decreed by federal law and Defense Department regulations.

To that end, the Air Force sought CAP's cooperation with the service's financial oversight requirements and the creation of a new board of directors. The new board of directors would consist of both CAP and Air Force members and would report to the secretary of the Air Force.

When an agreement could not be reached, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan and Acting Air Force Secretary Whit Peters

*"... bottom line is that there's \$30 million of taxpayers' money involved ..."*

decided to pursue legislation to assure proper oversight.

According to James Wolffe, special assistant to Mr. Peters, the service has provided CAP a copy of the draft legislation and has invited their recommendations for improving it.

"We'd like to work together with them on that," he said, "but the bottom line is that there's \$30 million of taxpayers' money involved and a lot of CAP-owned airplanes flying with the Air Force name. We have to have the level of accountability that goes along with the use of millions of federal dollars."

It's more than just financial oversight, according to Mr. Wolffe. He said it's the accountability on safety and professionalism that the Air Force wants to meet through a new board of directors that can have "real oversight."

"We really don't want to run Civil Air Patrol on a day-to-day basis in any way," Mr. Wolffe explained. "Our goal is to protect the taxpayers' investment in Civil Air Patrol and to make the organization stronger and more supportive of the fantastic work CAP does at the state and local level."

However, he said that based on an Air Force special assessment team visit to CAP National Headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., last month "there were enough things that we saw were wrong just in this initial look at CAP's processes that said the processes need to be fixed."

*This article is available in its entirety online.*



# Senior leaders meet for summit

continued from Page 1

by the civil service. The Air Force sees this as an opportunity for retired pilots, navigators, and air battle managers to fill shortages in the headquarters staffs. In addition, the Air Force is considering seeking an increase on the number of retired officers that could be voluntarily recalled to active duty.

The senior leaders explored several aviator bonus options to include offering the bonus at the traditional nine-year point in service as well as expanding beyond the current legal limit of 14 years, possibly through 25 years of aviation service. Senior leadership is committed to improving pilot retention and will refine the plan to expand the bonus at their Corona Top meeting in June.

In fiscal years 2000 through 2002, more than 3,300 pilots will become eligible for a bonus, and an additional 2,200 pilots will have their current bonus expire. In fiscal years 2003 through 2006, less than 2,000 pilots will reach initial bonus eligibility.

"You can quickly see why the Air Force supports legislative changes in bonus authority," said Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel Lt. Gen. Donald Peterson. "We want to take full advantage of this opportunity to restructure pilot compensation as we have other programs."

According to General Peterson, "Those pilots first eligible for the bonus in FY '99 — and contemplating accepting the bonus — should continue to sign up under the current program. If the law is enacted, our intention is to offer an opportunity for the pilots to restructure the bonus agreement on their first anniversary in order to take advantage of the new law.

"Don't delay plans in accepting the bonus since we cannot predict the passage of law. For all of our pilots completing the current



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

*A C-17 pilot from the 15th Airlift Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., scans for other aircraft May 4, 1999 before making his final approach into Tirana, Albania. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft are currently involved in airlifting U.S. Army personnel and equipment to Albania in support of Operation Task Force Hawk.*

bonus program, usually around the 14-year point, our intention is to offer new bonus opportunities that may pay up to \$25,000 per year."

General Peterson added that the Air Force wants to be in position to take full advantage of the act if it becomes law.

"We are committed," he said, "to being in position to implement targeted programs. This is in addition to improving compensation, managing tempo, transitioning to the expeditionary aerospace force, improving the transition to TRICARE and improving quality of life, particularly for our deployed people and their families."

## AF plans Stop-Loss

continued from Page 1

to hold up any service separations of individuals not critical to the mission.

Maj. Gen. Susan Pamerleau, Air Force director of personnel force management, said, "We must implement Stop-Loss to preserve our operational capability and retain critical skills necessary to perform the Operation Allied Force mission."

Stop-Loss was last used during the massive air strikes of Operation Desert Storm in 1991. This time the Air Force has analyzed immediate and long-term requirements to take a selective approach in choosing AFSCs. General Pamerleau said, "It is necessary to ensure we have the right people at the right location and time to support the mission."

Stop-Loss will also "send a signal to employers that we're not calling guardsmen and reservists while letting active-duty people go," said Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., Air National Guard director. The general said it was important to point out to employers and the public the "total force" aspect of today's call up.

Otherwise, personnel officials said, most other administrative functions will be unaffected by Stop-Loss, which will also have no effect on military retirees.



## U.S. Air Force ONLINE news

U.S. Air Force ONLINE news is produced each Wednesday by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs and is available via Air Force Link (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>). This funded U.S. Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for Air Force members and their families. Content is endorsed by the Department of the Air Force, but is not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. Editorial offices: SAF/PAI, 901 N. Stuart Suite 605, Arlington VA 22203. Telephone (703) 696-7832, Fax (703) 696-9162. Please post on unit bulletin boards and pass this copy on to others who need current Air Force news and information. Reproduce as needed.

### Publishers

Hon. F. Whitten Peters, *Acting Secretary of the Air Force*  
Gen. Michael E. Ryan, *Air Force Chief of Staff*

### Editor-in-Chief

Col. Ronald T. Rand, *Director of Public Affairs*

### Executive Editor

Lt. Col. Sanford McLaurin

### Managing Editor

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Katzaman

### Technical Production

Capt. Bryan Hubbard and Staff Sgt. Cheryl Toner